



## THE GRAND CIRCLE: ATLAS & SAHARA ODYSSEY

**14 Days | 759km | 5,530m Vertical Gain | The Counter-Clockwise Epic**

**Presented by Argan Sports**

### THE JOURNEY

This is our definitive Moroccan expedition—a 14-day masterclass in diversity that bridges the snow-capped High Atlas and the rolling, golden dunes of the Sahara. Moving in a counter-clockwise loop, you will ride over 700 KM climb over **5,500 vertical meters**, crossing legendary mountain passes, volcanic moonscapes, and lush river oases. The crown jewel of this odyssey is a deep-desert immersion, where we trade the saddle for a **4x4 Jeep excursion** into the heart of the dunes for an unforgettable night at a **Luxury Desert Camp** under the Saharan stars. This is designed for the explorer who wants to leave the red dust of Morocco permanently in their tires.

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### THE DAILY ODYSSEY

#### Day 1: The Red City Rendezvous (Marrakech)

Touch down in Marrakech, where the air is a heavy blend of cedarwood and cumin. You will be picked up by AXS and transported to our AXS bike shop for bike fitting and a review of the route with our expert guides. Spend your afternoon winding through the labyrinthine alleys of the Medina as the call to prayer echoes over the Jemaa el-Fnaa. Your first sanctuary night is in a local riad. Get steeped in the Marrakech vibe which is deeply ingrained in the culture for thousands of years. Step up on the roof top and see a panoramic view and if it is clear you will see the High Atlas peaks that await you tomorrow. A final night of luxury before the rugged miles begin.





## Day 2: The Agafay Entry (Marrakech to Ourigane)

The frantic pulse of the city gradually fades behind you as you enter the rolling white-stone hills of the Agafay Desert. This **70km** introductory stage features **50% gravel** as you navigate the Lalla Takerkoust reservoir tracks over roughly to Ourgane in roughly **5 hours**. When you arrive in Ourgane you will be greeted with family hospitality, the hotels catch phrase is “welcome to your home”. The family will prepare dinner while you can take a walk by the blue lake adjacent to the hotel , get ready for a hearty breakfast to fuel your journey.



## Day 3: The Forested Ascent (Ourigane to Tizi-N-Test Summit)

As you gain altitude, the heat of the plains is replaced by the fragrant pine forests and juniper trees of the High Atlas. Over **6.0 hours**, you will climb **450m** and cover **75km**, passing the 12th-century Tinmel Mosque. Your hotel is perched exactly at the 2,100m Test Summit, where you will dine and sleep above the clouds.



## Day 4: The Gravity Day (Tizi-n-Test Summit to Oulad Berhil)

Experience a massive 40km "gravity" descent from the peaks into the golden warmth of the Souss Valley. This is a relaxed **45km** stage on **100% road**, allowing for a **4-hour** flow as you drop into a landscape of Argan trees. You will spend the night in a former palace of peacocks and hidden courtyards that feels like a desert mirage.



### Day 5: The Saffron Heartland (Oulad Berhil to Taliouine)

Leave the plains for a steady, rhythmic climb into the heart of the Anti-Atlas. This **65km** road stage takes **6 hours**, gaining **800m** as the landscape turns purple and gold. We have arranged a small family run hotel here in the Saffron Heartland with local spices and in the town where women weave intricate saffron-dyed carpets.



### Day 6: The Weavers' Plateau (Taliouine to Tazenakht)

Push further across the high arid plateaus for **84km**, navigating a **30% gravel** mix that includes the scenic Anzal Piste bypass. Over **7 hours**, you will gain **600m** before arriving in Tazenakht. You will find refuge at a simple hotel in the center of the town, the perfect spot to rest and enjoy a hearty meal before the long trek toward the desert oases.

### Day 7: The Draa Oasis Descent (Tazenakht to Agdz)

You should start early as you face a hard **86km** stage, climbing **880m** to summit the Tizi n'Taguergoust pass. Once you summit you are in for an amazing sprawling view of the Draa Valley. The ride today will be about **7 hours**. The second half of the day will descend into a continuous canopy of green. We have chosen a special hotel in Agdz, a boutique haven where the garden is filled with songbirds and dinner is served in a lush palm grove.





## Day 8: The Left Bank Oasis Trail (Agdz-Zagora)

Follow the Draa River south, opting for the **70% gravel** tracks of the "Left Bank" palm groves. This is "Oasis Hopping" through a labyrinth of narrow tracks, under palm trees and ancient mud villages over **7 hours**. Arrive in Zagora at our chosen hotel, where you'll find salvation in a turquoise pool shaded by date palms.

## Day 9: The Sahara Jeep Excursion & Dune Camp (Zagora to the Desert Camp)

Today, the bikes take a rest as we trade the saddle for a **private 4x4 excursion into the deep Sahara**. You will traverse the rugged hamada to reach the towering sand dunes and reach our favorite desert camp. Tonight, there is no Wi-Fi and no traffic—just a traditional campfire dinner and a night spent under a canopy of a thousand stars.



## Day 10: The Stony Hamada (Zagora to Ait ben Haddou)

Waking to a sunrise in the dunes, you are shuttled back to Zagora to navigate the "Back-door" tracks across the stony Hamada plains. This **85km** stage features **40% gravel** over **7 hours**, gaining **600m**. Your home tonight adjacent to the runs, where you can watch the moonlight hit the mud-brick towers of Ait Benhaddou from your balcony.

## Day 11: The Ounila Canyon (Ait ben Haddou to Taddert)

Prepare for a hard **86km** stage through the secret Ounila Valley. Spend **7 hours** navigating **40% gravel** ribbons through salt-streaked canyons. You will climb **950m** to reach our chosen hotel in Taddert, a cozy, stone-walled haven where a steaming tagine serves as the ultimate cyclist's fuel.





## Day 12: The Victory Descent (Taddert to Marrakech)

Your final long descent from the Tichka summit leads you back toward the plains of the Red City. This **78km** stage on **100% road** takes **6 hours**, gaining **400m** as the mountain air is replaced by the warmth of Marrakech. Return our Marrakech Riad to toast your journey with mint tea as the sun sets over the Koutoubia Mosque.



## Day 13: The Farewell

A final day for assembly and gear checks or exploring the Medina one last time. Enjoy a farewell dinner at the Riad as you reflect on the diverse landscapes of the Atlas and Sahara. Overnight our Marrakech Riad

## Day 14: Departure

A final breakfast in the courtyard before your transfer to RAK airport. Your bike is packed and your legs are tired, but your soul is full of the Atlas.

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## THE ARGAN SPORTS SYSTEM

### What is Included:

- **Accommodation:** 13 nights in our curated sanctuaries (Riads, Kasbahs, and a Luxury Desert Camp).



- **Meals:** 13 breakfasts and 13 dinners. Evening meals include water and traditional Moroccan tea.
- **The Machine:** Rental of a **Giant Revolt 2** gravel bike, professionally fitted.
- **Logistics:** All airport transfers, 4x4 Jeep excursion to the Sahara camp, and the return desert shuttle.
- **Support:** Expert GPS navigation files and 24/7 WhatsApp Concierge.

#### **Available Upgrades & Options:**

- **Performance Upgrade:** Upgrade to the **Giant Revolt Advanced** carbon frame for **€10 per day** (subject to availability).
- **Bikepacking Gear:** Professional rack setup for **€10** and waterproof panniers for **€40** for the duration of the trip.
- **Souvenir Hydration:** Argan Sports branded small backpacks with hydration bladders are available for **€40**—yours to keep as a memento of the journey.

#### **What is Not Included:**

- **Lunch:** To give you total freedom to stop at local villages or scenic viewpoints, lunch is not covered.
- **Alcoholic Beverages:** Where available at our partner hotels, alcoholic drinks are extra.
- **Hydration:** Please bring your own **bidons (water bottles)** to use with the bikes.

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#### **INVESTMENT**

- **Shared Room:** €2,495 per person
- **Single Room:** €2,795 per person
- **Coordination:** Please share your flight details via WhatsApp so we can synchronize your private Saturday pickup and Sunday drop-off.